

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 9, 2020

Armando's Ristorante Italiano

The Wine Room

720-851-6770

9355 Crown Crest Blvd,

Parker, CO 80138

The room is reserved beginning at 6:00pm

Meeting @ 6:30 PM

Attendance: Sharron Soos, Heather Petersen, Gwen Ka'awaloa, MaryJo Hoepner, Beth Geier, Stan Adamson, Anclaire Spaulding, Kathy Simard, Dorothy Kapaun; Natalie DeFee Mendik, Beverly Swanson; Nicole Bizzarro; Joan Clay; Michelle Stevens; Lauren Still

Proxies: Ginka Kubelka to Heather Petersen; Arlene Rhodes to Heather Petersen; Didi DeKrey to Dorothy Kapaun; Nancy Leonard to JoElyn Newcomb; Simone Windeler to Heather Petersen; Cassandra DiPentino to Lauren Still; Lesley Hill to Heather Petersen

Call to Order-President

Gwen Ka'awaloa

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm

Secretary - Approval of Minutes - No Minutes to approve for January

Heather Petersen

Treasurers Report

Sharon Soos

Funds as of December 31, 2019

RMDS Checking Account \$31,808.41

RMDS PayPal (as of 12/19/2018) \$6,873.69 Total \$38,682.10 operating cash total

Restricted Funds as of December 31, 2019

Database/Website \$ 5,735.00

RMDS Scholarship \$ 6,192.29

Reserve \$43,823.00

TOTAL \$94,432.39

Last page shows current payments made to CodeGeek and where our donation pledges stand. Sharon also delineated the payment terms for the contract.

The approved budget is in the packet and the donation sheet as well.

President Report

Gwen Ka'awaloa

Happy New Year 2020

RMDS started the year with excitement at our Awards Banquet, with a surprising and exciting Live Auction but some wonderful Gentlemen from the Auctioneers Convention.

The Live Auction and Silent Auction earned some much needed funds to help with keeping the costs down at the Awards Banquet. The most exciting was the money earned for the Build a Byte Barn.

February will be a busy and exciting month with our L judges program, Show management and TD program and then our RMDS demonstration at the Colorado Horse Expo.

Then all our other education programs follow beginning in April.

We have a lot to cover tonight including a brief but informative recap of the USDF Convention.

Vice President Report

Dorothy Kapaun

My first USDF Convention was fantastic! I met so many wonderful people. I attended several meetings, Regional Championships, Youth, GMO Committee, Open Competition and GMO Roundtable. Some great ideas and practices were shared at the Roundtable; my two favorites were ride a test, taste a wine and Competitor theme parties based

on the judges hometown. The big news for the Youth is that there will be a Jr/YR division at Nationals this year. The youth will be able to apply for travel grants. One of the biggest surprises I learned was that not all GMOs are 501c3. It is now very difficult to become a 501c3, don't let yours expire! I am looking forward to next year's conventions!

Central Office

Beth Geier

Membership

- Registration – 322 as of 1/1 members for 2020; 23 new horses since October, 2019
- See reports with chapter membership totals.
- Accepting dues for 2020: \$65.00 tomorrow it is \$75

Omnibus:

- See Nicole's Bizzarro's report
- Committee to study cost effective changes

Shows:

- For 2020: 7 - RMDS recognized shows: 33 - USEF/USDF recognized

Database/Website:

- Asking people that have refunds if they want to donate – most say yes.
- Please ask your chapter members to see if there is a donor in the group or if they know of one.

General:

- Chapters receive free email blasts for educational purposes.
- RMDS Executive Board members get ½ price admission to RMDS events.

Next Executive Board Meetings (2nd Thursday odd months-exceptions noted) –

2020

Executive Board Meetings: Jan 9, March 12, May 14, July 7, Sept 8, Oct 8 (budget)

BOG Nov 21

2021

Banquet:

**RMDS MEMBERSHIP -
YEAR-TO-DATE**

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Members:	322	700	725	752	756	779	694	827	797	868	773	945	1030	1008	1036	1019	1151	1177	1162
Horses:	23	159	161	91	93	59	63	59	135	123	132	132	166	246	262	234	207	337	274
AV	21	39	36	39	25	29	26	27	25	27	24	15	26	12	-	-	-	-	-
BV	76	151	162	159	182	168	171	180	182	190	200	188	205	172	178	179	199	208	230
FH	23	56	70	57	73	79	76	64	65	71	72	75	76	77	74	73	109	103	115
GV	29	80	77	91	95	71	55	71	53	65	83	87	105	102	88	92	93	98	77
HP	73	162	164	169	149	156	151	176	190	208	226	256	265	260	259	251	267	283	278
NC	28	64	75	69	77	77	89	94	93	110	132	107	124	137	137	139	162	151	150
NM																			
OB	24	37	38	49	43	42	33	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PP	42	87	77	89	63	70	63	62	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WC	5	23	25	29	22	18	19	23	27	31	22	21	25	25	32	34	44	55	64
No Chapter	1	1	1	1	3	5	11	12	13	15	14	25	14	16	22	21	34	36	24
CS			-	Dissolved	24	35	47	52	63	115	124	115	127	126	143	130	137	155	134
PN			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Dissolved	inactive	12	13	13	14	15	14	13
PR			-	-	Dissolved	10	11	18	14	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TS			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Dissolved	36	51	68	90	86	91	74	77
WA			-	-	Dissolved	19	21	26	28	24	24	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	322	700	725	752	756	779	694	827	797	868	773	945	1030	1008	1036	1019	1151	1177	1162
Juniors	25	66	73	80	86	88	95	120	117	120	134								
Amateurs	56	217	205	195	163	152	176	209	220	239	230								
Education	6	14	18	21	17	16													
Business	6	12	9/2																
Life	33/1	33/1	32/2																

Permanent Committee Reports Continued:

Adult Amateur

Michael Stevens/Anclaire Spaulding

We are all set for the George Williams clinic on April 4-5, 2020. We have a selection committee for choosing riders: Gwen, Heather and Kathy Simard. We already have 4 entries despite not being open. Anclaire and Michelle need to talk to George about flights and pick-up. Anclaire will setup an excel spreadsheet for the judges with all the rider info and links to the videos.

Talking about doing Saturday dinner at a private home for more intimate atmosphere.

Questions for Heather Will George book the hotel room or should we?

Ideas for another AA Event: wood board painting class night during champs

Awards

Shannon Lemons

Things went fairly smoothly at the banquet itself, and we have deal with all but one question that people had regarding why they didn't receive awards (not members, not enough scores, pony card not received). For one category, we have decided to award a trophy that was not listed in our original reports since the owner did submit the pony card, though it was not received by Central Office. It is the rider's responsibility to confirm their AA and Pony cards are registered with RMDS and not that of the Central Office or show manager, but as there was some confusion regarding the sending and receiving of the card it will be awarded. It should be noted, though, that riders do need to take some responsibility in making sure their scores and cards are on file rather than assuming it has been done by the show manager or assuming that the Central Office received them. Cost of awards this year are approximately \$6665, but we are going to incur some additional expenses due to errors at the FEI level in reports generated by the database, which has been an ongoing issue with the current system. (Please see end of this report for more information).

A member suggestion has been received regarding Introductory level scores. The proposal is in two parts:

1. Add an Introductory Level to each division with the same requirements as the current Training-Grand Prix level requirements. This would add a new award in Junior/Young Rider, Adult Amateur, Pony, and Open Division, requiring four more trophies provided by RMDS or sponsorships from members for those trophies. I would suggest awarding a ribbon and plaque only unless a sponsor is obtained in order to help maintain budget with the addition of this many awards. **Stan Adamson moved we introduce Intro awards for AA, Jr, Open and Pony but the scores would not be entered into consideration for special awards. The 5-4-3 criteria with 2 scores of 55% or better at Intro C but remove the USEF show requirement. Schooling shows though would not count for this program, schooling shows only count in qualifying for the Introductory Championships. 2nd by MaryJo Hoepner. Motion passed unanimously.**
2. Add an additional division through all levels for those who are not AA, JR/YR or Professionals. The way the proposal reads is to add a fourth division, meaning Intro (if approved) through Grand Prix would all need trophies and awards, meant to provide the opportunity to win awards for more people. While I like the idea of providing opportunities for more people to win awards, this additional division would significantly impact the Awards budget, and given our current financial concerns regarding financing the database, I propose continuing with the plan voted on at the BOG in November, which is to remove AA and JR/YR from Open listings, leaving that division for professionals or those who do not wish to declare AA or JR/YR. At the present time and financial status of the organization, this provides more opportunity for professionals and those who do not wish to declare, and adding an Intro level as described in #1 also provides additional opportunities. **This motion was dropped, due to the costs Shannon laid out being too much especially right now with the database and website projects.**

Finally, executive board input is needed in regard to some significant errors that have occurred with year-end awards for 2019. One of the ongoing concerns with the database has been the errors in how FEI level scores are compiled when end of year awards reports are run. The reports are pulling rider/horse combinations who have

not met the criteria for Horse of the Year Awards (**ie 4 rides, 4 judges, 4 shows**) and showing them as the winners of the division. Unfortunately for 2020, this means that all FEI level awards are incorrect in some part, and multiple riders have brought up the discrepancy. So we have a dilemma in how to handle this situation. It is not the fault of the people incorrectly awarded the trophy, nor is it fair to not award trophies to those who should have received them. With our current technology (which will be corrected with the new system) these errors in reporting cannot be changed and it is therefore not the fault of RMDS either. We make every effort to proof results with multiple sets of eyes, but we cannot always catch these errors as things stand now. We have come up with a couple of ideas on how to handle the situation:

1. Send a notice from the board to all FEI riders advising them of the situation, stating that due to errors in our current database our reports listed some winners who did not obtain enough scores, which has affected placings in multiple divisions and levels. This notice would advise that we would order new small plaques and ribbons in the correct placings and correct the perpetual plaques. I have not had time to see which trophies were picked up by winners who should not have been awarded them, but most were picked up. So perhaps we could word the notice to ask for those who did not receive a trophy to consider accepting the corrected ribbons and small plaques without the trophy itself, knowing that the engravings would be corrected on the perpetual plaques. We could also ask those who did receive a trophy in error to consider returning it so that it could be given to the correct person. We will have to correct the Omnibus entries as well as Centaur entries as well. Along with sincere apologies of course – three people checked the final awards list, but we do rely on the database to keep track of appropriate numbers of tests, judges and shows, and unfortunately none of us caught the addition of riders who should not have qualified; there are just too many tests each season for anyone to keep track of qualifications and who has met them without a properly running database. We should probably also include the corrected rankings in the letter. I have attached a draft of a possible letter to FEI riders at the end of this report.
2. Fix the ones where people have questioned results and leave the rest – probably not a great idea 😊
3. Do nothing - say we're sorry but it's a database issue and the awards were already given out and the problem will be corrected with the new system – another not great idea 😊.

Whatever the board decides, I think the response needs to come from the entire Executive Board, not just the Awards Committee. If we elect to ask folks incorrectly awarded trophies to return them, I feel we should go get those trophies. In that case, I will need board members to assist in retrieving them. When considering which option to go with (other ideas appreciated if anyone has suggestions!), please note that option 1 will include additional costs to the awards budget for additional 5x7 plaques, repeat engraving of plates for trophies or perpetual plaques, and postage to mail out the corrected ones.

Unfortunately, I am not able to be there tonight for the meeting due to medical issues, so please let me know your decision.

Dear RMDS FEI Level riders:

You have all been hearing about the need for a new database for our organization. In addition to our connectivity and integration concerns with our old system, we have recently encountered a serious issue with how the database compiles end of year results for the FEI levels. Unfortunately, this glitch affects all of you. A couple of riders have come to us with questions about rankings on the website versus the year end awards given out at the banquet. In researching those questions we have discovered that the database is incorrectly including some rider combinations who have not met the qualifications regarding number of rides, judges, and/or shows. Thus, the compilation of the Horse of the Year awards were incorrect in some instances and some of those awards were then given out incorrectly.

We want to assure our members that this problem will be corrected when the new database is up and running, but as an organization we feel that we need to attempt to correct the awards issues in 2019. After discussing the issue in depth, the Executive Board has decided to have new ribbons and 5x7 plaques made for any rider who should have received a trophy and to have new ribbons for other riders whose rankings may have changed. These will be mailed out to any of you affected. The plates on the perpetual plaques listing multiple years of

winners will also be re-engraved and replaced. If you received a trophy in error, we would ask that you consider returning it to a Board member so that it can be given to the correct rider. If you do not chose to do so, there will be no negative consequences. We understand that this is an inconvenience, and board members will do whatever we can to make it as simple as possible to correct this situation.

We sincerely apologize for the problems occurring with this season's year end awards and for any inconvenience it has caused. We all understand how much time, effort and resources you put into your horses and your training, and the purpose of year end awards is to recognize that effort. We make every attempt to be accurate in maintaining show records and ensuring that qualifications are met, but it is a tremendous undertaking in which we must rely heavily on the database due to the sheer volume of information. Unfortunately in this case our technology failed us. We deeply appreciate your understanding while we attempt to rectify the situation, and please be assured we are aware of the problem and will ensure it is corrected.

Anclaire Spaulding makes a motion we follow Shannon's suggested solution #1, Dorothy Kapaun 2nd the motion. Discussion of the letter and who receives it. It was decided the letter will be sent via snail mail. Motion passes unanimously with Natalie Mendik abstaining.

Communications

Beverly Swanson

December e-Centaur

Posted our Brick Byte Barn and began getting more donations.

January 2020 Centaur

- Delivery is a bit late as we added an insert poster of Calendar of Events, plus added some sticky tabs to hold together.
- We had many entries for the poster artwork, some spectacular photos and art. The committee decided on the artwork from Barb Haynie, which represented both our Rocky Mountain West look and the essence of dressage. Hope you like it!
- Thanks to Kathy Simard for her enlightening article on physical therapy and its correlations to training dressage. We can always count on Kathy to give us inspiring advice!
- Also thanks to our scholarship recipient, Pam Phillips, for her amusing narrative of what goes through our minds at a show.
- Again I would really appreciate everyone who has a regular contribution to please mark your calendars to send me your content (by the 8th of the month). Chapters, this means I need your reports **ONLY** for print issues - the ODD number months.
- PLEASE encourage your students, fellow RMDS members, or other horsey friends to contribute - remember, you earn two volunteer hours for writing articles.

Feb-Mar 2020 Centaurs

PLEASE send your banquet/awards pictures. Also, I will need the list of award winners, plus a summary article - Una or Anclaire, could you do this, plus give me results for silent auction?

Communications

- As soon as Omnibus is finished and Nicole B. has a chance to take a breath, we are going to survey our advertisers for their feedback on ads in Omnibus, as well as online and the Centaur. A clearer overview of what is producing for our advertisers is necessary so that we can help them use their dollars wisely and productively. This also will give us some sales points for bringing in more sponsors and advertisers.
- Created a large Brick Byte Barn poster for the Awards Banquet - thanks to our luck being next to an Auctioneers convention, a volunteer auctioneer helped this along. MANY THANKS to Beth Geier for really getting behind this effort to bring in money for our new website.
- Ran a "Dressage With Altitude" hats as gifts ad for Holiday Season.
- Assembled 45 poster photo email entries into contact sheets for judging by committee. Additional posters and January Centaurs were ordered for distribution at RM Horse Expo.
- All Centaurs and e-Centaurs for 2019 are uploaded on the website as PDFs.

- Gwen suggested Duplo build-a-barn that doubles as a bank and it can travel to shows and events.

Omnibus

Nicole Bizzarro

Nicole gave us an update on where things stand with the omnibus. We are waiting on final confirmation from the Horse Park on our use of the venue, so once that is received, we can move forward with the shows section of the omnibus.

Nicole asked we send a communication just briefly explaining the delay so that folks know. We usually would have everything set and ready to go to the printer by now. Our advertising is down about 50% due to the rumors we might not have a print omnibus. Nicole doesn't think we should poll advertisers for their results, we just need to get advertisers. It was only a deficit previous of about \$1200. She can't make the decision, the board needs to decide what needs to be done, but will do whatever we need. We are asking for omnibus design bids by February 28th but we don't even really know what direction we want to go.

Gwen discussed the tangibility of the omnibus. It's special for new members and the juniors.

Natalie added in support of the omnibus that it's just a great benefit for members and really draws in the new members.

Beverly says folks feel that advertisers aren't getting returns. Others stated that some never open their omnibus, but that was felt by others as not a valid argument.

Nicole said RMDS is an educational organization – we need the advertisers for their support but it's not our job to research what benefits they are receiving.

Some discussion of the set-up of the survey and how it may have changed the results.

Heather Petersen made a motion to continue forward with the omnibus in the current format for the next 2 years. 2nd by Sharon Soos. Discussion continued along the same trends. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Website/Data Base

Status report January 2020: RMDS web app project

CodeGeek

- **In progress:** Ron & Megan continue to work on writing up the detailed outline of required functionality to be built. Ron & Megan have met with Beth and other members of the RMDS team a couple of times to discuss our questions, and will have a few more questions to discuss in January.
- **In progress:** the CodeGeek team of Ron, Megan (Project Manager), Isaiah (Lead Developer) and David (Developer) are continuing the planning phases and are currently working on the web application architecture based on what we know already. This includes wireframing and diagramming, processes that allow us to create visual representations of the user experience.
- CodeGeek will review these visual representations with the RMDS team in a series of meetings starting in January before moving each element to the design phase.

RMDS

- Payment Portal: The team was going to review the current PayPal fee structure and let us know if it's OK to move to Stripe with the new site. It would be great to have that decision this month.
- We will need an Admin user login to the WordPress website - who can provide that to us?
- All, re: Design preferences & desires - please send me a few examples of websites you like. 2-5 websites would be great, no need for more than that. If you could deliver that in January that'd be perfect.

Timeline notes

- As we've discussed previously, this is a complex web application and will take about 6+ months to build from where we are now. We are anticipating launch during the 2020 season and will work with you to determine how to transition into the new system as smoothly as possible.

Education

MaryJo Hoepner/Pam Phillips

- February 1 – USDF Continuing Education for Judges – Upgrade Your Judging Eye I with Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez. Auditors welcome.
- February 22 - TD / Show Management training – Comfort Suites, Castle Rock.

Junior/Young Riders

Cassandra Dipentino

Happy New Year!! So ready to get 2020 started...Table Mountain Ranch has committed to letting us use the facility for the 2020 Summer Intensive June 18th-20th with the team competition on the 21st. I do need the title of the Summer Intensive changed on the RMDS calendar so that it doesn't say camp, this is a requirement for facility use at Table Mountain Ranch due to insurance technicalities. I am starting to research and reach out to potential clinicians and get the activities planned. I'm also tossing around ideas to create less downtime, and potentially more than one ride a day so riders can get even more out of the three days; I'm open to suggestions as always. I'm very excited to see what this year will bring.

Is High Plains doing their much-loved youth clinic this year? If not is this something Foothills chapter could continue? Yes, there is a tentative High Plains clinic.

Marketing

Christine Casillas

Christine and Una are setting up a meeting to get things transferred over.

Professionals

Kathy Simard / Joan Clay

We need to approve a budget for the Professionals' Clinic.

The Professionals Clinic with Lilo Fore is scheduled for April 25-26, 2020. Tomora is our host facility and contract has been signed. Insurance has been procured. They would like RMDS to also provide a porta potty and rent the tall restaurant style heaters for the indoor arena to keep Lilo warm as well as the attending instructors. Show stabling would be available. If the weather gets bad, they would arrange for indoor stabling.

Flyers for both auditors and demonstration riders will be going out to the professionals listed with RMDS by the time of this meeting. Be sure your instructor is on the list and encourage them to attend! I have also sent the flyers to the contact I have at Arizona Dressage Association.

Our anonymous donor is unable to help us this year, so the projected profit might not occur, but the budget was conservative, so we should be ok. It is a certified instructor CE for USDF as well.

Scholarship

Natalie DeFee-Mendik

The RMDS Scholarship Committee met December 10, 2019 in Peyton. In attendance were Natalie Mendik, MaryJo Hoepner, and Heather Petersen; an invitation was issued to all membership with no response.

The committee reviewed five scholarship applications: one for Opening Doors, two for Leg Up, and two for Solid Seat. No applications for Junior/Young Rider were submitted.

The committee feels each scholarship was extremely well presented and that the scholarship award funds be divided equally between the five applicants (\$400/each). Please see additional documents for detailed information.

The committee further recommends that the applicants pursue additional grants/scholarships through The Dressage Foundation, as each has compiled compelling application materials.

Kathy Simard made a motion to approve all 5 applicants receive \$400 each in scholarship funds. 2nd by Gwen Ka'awaloa. Motion passed unanimously.

Shows – Championships

Anclaire Spauling/Michelle Stevens

Thinking ahead Anclaire would like to find someone to run the silent auction at Champs so she can ride and not be crazy all week.

Heather is still working to see if the Horse Park will allow us to continue to be there. There is the potential 2nd facility lined up with also the possibility of Estes if needed but we would need to move the show 2 weeks earlier. We should know in the next 2 weeks where we stand. Heather discussed a lot of things in the works as much as she could. **Michelle Stevens made a motion to allow Heather Petersen to act in the best interest of RMDS in her working with the Colorado Horse Park in regards to the 2020 RMDS Championships as the authorized agent of RMDS. 2nd by MaryJo Hoepner.** There was some discussion, including other members trying to interact with the Horse Park and how they need to desist. Motion passed with Heather Petersen abstaining.

Appointed Committee Reports:

1. Western Dressage

Simone Windeler

WDACO recently met to plan their clinic schedule for 2020 and I will pass it along when they distribute it.

2. Nominating Committee – Chapter Presidents

Stan Adamson

President, Vice President, Adult Amateur, Championships, Communications, Scholarship, Jr/YR

It was noted that the secretary and treasurer were supposed to be elected in November of 2019 and so Beth will send an email vote out to the 2019 BOG delegates.

3. BOG - November 21, 2020

Heather Petersen

Renaissance in confirmed. The food is going to be spiced up.

4. Banquet – January 4, 2020

Beth Geier

There were 159 guaranteed dinners and another 5 dinners were added. There were several people that were unable to attend due to illness. We paid for 163 dinners. \$7,661.00 collected for reservation.

An auctioneer came and volunteered to help us out by live auctioning 3 items that brought in a total of \$660.00. He then continued and urged people to make a pledge starting with \$1,000 (3 people); \$500 (1 person); \$250 (4 people); and \$100 (8 at least). Total paid so far of the pledges is \$3,180.00

Una Schade & Anclaire Spaulding once again did an outstanding job obtaining & displaying all the items for the auction.

Julie Barringer-Richers - thanks to you for being the MC.

Shannon Lemons did an awesome job presenting the trophy display and being sure the awards presentations went smoothly.

Heather Petersen put together a wonderful slide show as well as the power point for the awards.

Several juniors helped be the "Vanna Whites" of the evening.

Many thanks to all that helped to make this year a success!

Great job everyone!

Silent auction collected approximate \$6665.

Expenses \$990 deposit, \$7226 meals, \$737 audiovisual package. Made a profit of approximately \$5372.02.

Next year, it would fall on January 2nd and that's too early or too close to New Years. The hotel is going to look for a Saturday for us. Would we consider Sunday night? It is not preferred. Also was suggested to open the bar at 5pm instead. Another suggestion to change the MC as in previous years.

Region 5 Report

Heather Petersen

I hope everyone had a great Holiday season! We had a fun week at the USDF Convention in Savannah, Georgia at the beginning of December. Many thanks to those of you who joined us and there were a lot of you. We had great interaction and discussions at the Region 5 meetings and a great group for the awards dinner! Thank you to Joan Clay for running the second Region 5 meeting while I attend the USEF Dressage Sport Committee meeting that sadly was scheduled for the same time. Congratulations to everyone who received year end awards and congratulations again to our GMO award recipients!

- GMO Newsletter Award - First Person Experience Article – GMO with 500 or more members – 1st place – Rocky Mountain Dressage Society, *The Centaur*, March 2019: *Classical Dressage: From Dallying a Rope on my Saddle Horn to Breeches and Tall Boots* by Sgt. Joe Cummings
- Regional GMO Volunteer of the Year – USDF Region 5 – MaryJo Hoepner, Colorado Springs, Colorado – Rocky Mountain Dressage Society.

The USDF Convention is always a great chance for networking, catching up with old friends and participating in the governance of our great sport. The major issue that came before the BOG was tabled, that was a change in the education membership. The largest part of it that was in contention was the name of the rebranded membership. It will be relooked at and come back next year. The BOG did approve a motion to look at separating Jr/YR to 15 and under and 16-21 divisions. That will now go forward for consideration by the USEF Dressage Sport Committee. There

was also a motion to have USEF look at adding at 55 and over AA division. So that will be considered in the future as well.

The budget for our fiscal year April 1, 2020-March 30, 2021 passed with no issues. Regions 1,3,5,7,9 directors were re-elected as was the secretary, Margaret Freeman. Kevin Reinig from California won the VP election.

For Region 5, our finances are steady. The NAYC kids need to do some fundraising if they would like to use the funds in their account to go to NAYC for 2020. The PM delegate grant of \$200 per delegate was reapproved for 2020 PM delegates. RMDS donated \$1000 of the profits from the USDF Region 5 Championships held in 2019 to the Region 5 Education account, in addition to their yearly donation of \$1000 to the FEI Jr/YR account.

New rules that went into effect December 1st include the drop for FEI freestyle qualifications back to 60% in order to be eligible to ride one. Also, qualifications were introduced for US riders to enter US CDIs and these will most likely go into effect in 2021. There are a few other rule changes for 2020, but nothing hugely major. There are quite a few new or changed FEI tests for 2020 as well.

The hotel for the convention was located along the Savannah River, just across the river from the main part of historic downtown Savannah. There was a wonderful free ferry that ran frequently back and forth across the river so it allowed for convention attendees to take in dinner and site seeing at their convenience. It was a wonderful place to walk and explore and see an important part of US history.

To all of our wonderful Region 5 committee members, your hard work doesn't go unnoticed and we really won't be the great organization we are without you! Many thanks to everyone for your support of myself as Regional Director and thank you as well for re-electing me. I look forward to serving you for the next 3 years and please let me know if you have any questions or concerns!

Old Business:

- We need fliers for the Horse Expo

New Business:

- Approval of New Mexico Dressage Chapter - - have submitted By-Laws and their initial 17 members (only 10 needed). **Stan Adamson moved we approve them, 2nd by Joan Clay. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Approval of D&O Insurance Chapter Officers

D&O Insurance-RMDS - OFFICERS 2020

Chapter	Title	Name
Arkansas Valley	President	Nancy Leonard
	VP	Katie Knight
	Treasurer	Sandy Vernon
	Secretary	Renee McMillen
Boulder Valley	President	Stan Adamson
	VP	Lesya Ukrainchuk
	Treasurer	Dorothy Kapaun
	Secretary	Dorothy Kapaun
Foothills	President	Cassandra DiPentino
	VP	Lauren Still
	Treasurer	Laura Quakenbusch
	Secretary	Nicole Riffe
Grand Valley	President	Arlene Rhodes
	VP	Deb Crooks
	Treasurer	Susan Gregg
	Secretary	Pat White
High Plains	President	Stephanie Figgins
	VP	Julie Burt

	Treasurer	Ellen Siebert
	Secretary	Lori Keilt
New Mexico	President	Maureen Mestas
	VP	Cecilia Cox
	Treasurer	Brian Nenninger
	Secretary	TBA
Northern Colo	President	Denise "Didi" DeKrey
	VP	Jon Haugen
	Treasurer	Andrea Chirich
	Secretary	Katie McGivney
On the Bit Dressage	President	Ginka Kubelka
	VP	Kelly Wolfe
	Treasurer	Tom Wolfe
	Secretary	Anna Chalfoun
Pikes Peak Dressage	President	Shannon Lemons
	VP	Mary Jo Hoepner
	Treasurer	Elaine Thomas
	Secretary	Heather Petersen
Western Colo	President	Leslie Hill
	VP	Lisa Haisfield
	Treasurer	Justina Potter
	Secretary	Carolyn Miller

MaryJo Hoepner moved to approve the slate as read into the minutes, 2nd by Sharon Soos. Motion passed unanimously.

- Soliciting Bids for March
- Setting up conferencing for meetings? Moving to a non-restaurant and quiet location? We'll stay at Armando in March. We are going to explore our options. Gwen is going to ask the hospital, Anclaire is going to ask Andrea Price Venezuela.
- Horse Expo – Gwen is going to be an Expo clinician. Discussion of how we're bringing RMDS into it. Gwen needs approval for polo shirts for riders and workers for the event. Blue polo shirt with RMDS logo. Heather Petersen made a motion to approve polo shirts up to 50 shirts. 2nd by Kathy Simard. Motion passes with Gwen Ka'awaloa abstaining.
- There was the discussion of the letter sent by Didi DeKrey in response to what Heather sent the NCDA board. The Executive Board is highly concerned about the lack of participation by the NCDA Board and those on the board present for the meeting agreed that the letter was appropriate. Much discussion occurred regarding if we should change By-Laws. Many felt this needs further discussion and we will schedule a conference call regarding the matter or re-address it at the March meeting.

Chapter Presidents:

1. Arkansas Valley

Nancy Leonard

The Arkansas Valley Dressage Association will be hosting its 2020 meeting on Jan. 12 in Penrose. Location TBD. At this meeting, the association will be setting the dates for the 2020 show season, clinicians and other possible educational events for the coming season. The association also will be attending a training on Jan. 18 on Fox Village Dressage Show Management software. The software was launched for the October 2019 show but we are looking to make sure the members are up to speed on the program. We also would like to congratulate two of our regions young riders on their tremendous accomplishments for 2019. Emily Schmidt earned Reserve Champion Second Level during the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society's awards banquet Saturday night. Sage Lau received sixth place Second Level

during the banquet. Emily is planning on riding Third Level next year! We wish her good luck and know that there is a lot of work to do through the summer to get qualifying scores.

2. Boulder Valley

Stan Adamson

We had a great year in 2019, with two great shows and a clinic at the Boulder County Fairgrounds in Longmont in June and September, with terrific judges Lilo Fore, Mike Osinski and Gwen Ka'awaloa, and Clinician Sandy Hotz. Regular meetings of the Board, Members and Show Committee were held in even-numbered months, for the most part at the home of Beth Geier; one meeting was held at Nighthawk Equestrian Center in Longmont. We will celebrate at our annual Awards Banquet at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 26, 2020, at Nissi's, the performance venue near 95th Street and Arapahoe in Lafayette (street address 2675 Northpark Drive, Lafayette 80026). Cost is \$39 per person, payable through our web site. Our Master of Ceremonies, Julie Barringer-Richers, would love to have digital photos from our members for the slide show; please email your photos to Julie at jab57@icloud.com. Also, if you have one of our perpetual trophies or plaques, please get it back to Julie right away for re-engraving; email her for directions. I think that will suffice. Happy New Year!

3. Foothills

Linda Gaber

Foothills Chapter awards banquet will be planned for spring of 2020. So far events in the planning stages are our two shows (June 7th and August 29th) along with our Level Up! Mini symposium that was postponed from last year.

4. Grand Valley

Arlene Rhodes

We are looking forward to hearing how our members did at the RMDS Awards Banquet. We had some very successful riders and they should be attending if the weather cooperates. We have a few member-sponsored clinics in January: Stephanie Soule is organizing a clinic with Gail Hoff, Saturday/Sunday - January 18/19. Gail has trained many Grand Prix horses from start to finish and she is a judge. <http://www.losalamosdressage.com/staff.htm>. The clinic will be at the Roy Yates Training Facility in Fruita, CO. Contact Stephanie if you would like to audit or see if there is a spot available to ride. Stephanie Soule 970-201-0747 stephanie.soule@msn.com Barbara Progg is sponsoring a Feldenkrais Workshop for Equestrians Saturday January 25 in Grand Junction with instructor Christel Reynolds. See this article for information about Feldenkrais benefits for riders: <https://equinewellnessmagazine.com/feldenkrais-method/> Please contact: Barbara Progg 801 721-7111 starman7@comcast.net Several of our members are hoping to come to Denver for the Western Dressage judge's seminar being held in February. I know of at least three members that got new horses this fall/winter. We are looking forward to their show debuts in the spring! April will be here before we know it...

5. High Plains

Stephanie Figgins

- Youth Clinic: Still do not have confirmation from Julie Howe. Kelly Boyd and Colleen Diamond are confirmed.
- The Youth Clinic is scheduled for March 8th, 2020 at Paradox Ranch, LLC
33591 Pine Hills Lane, Elizabeth, CO 80107
- Snow date March 29th (Sunday)
- \$50 dollars per lesson. Do we subsidize?? How much money is in the bank? Subsidize @ \$40 members. \$45 nonmembers. Budget 20 riders.
- Subsidize mileage for Trainers? .40 cents per mile. \$50 per trainer. Yes
- Income: 10 members@\$40 and 10 non- members@\$45
Budget: \$250
Bagel Bar in the morning
Taco bar for lunch
Coffee and water, Hot Cocoa for kids.

6. Northern Colorado

Didi DeKrey

Hope everyone had some great Holidays!

The RMDS Awards Banquet was a good time! Congratulations to our friends getting awards: Andrea Chirich, Felix Duerr, Shelley Jansen, Katie McGiveny, and Sue Woods! Serendipity brought two professional auctioneers to the banquet! Another event was happening down the hall and these two gentlemen offered their services. Needless to say, our RMDS Board took them up on it! The crowd sure had fun; "Hep! Hep!" cried the auctioneer!

NCCA's Baskets – yes, two – we are such over achievers! – did well in the Silent Auction. Thank you again to Happy Horse Tack Shop, Odell's Brewery and Northern Colorado Feeders Supply for providing many of the items in the "baskets"!

This Wednesday at our General Meeting, Raissa Chunko will talk with us about her trip to Aachen, Germany this last summer. Raissa was one of the Young Riders selected by The Dressage Foundation for the International Dream Program.

Our February meeting features Dr. Bruce Connelly and Equine Behavior. March's presentation will be on Surviving Traumatic Events, and getting back into the saddle.

Feel free to join us anytime! General Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month; September through May. Good food, good company and interesting topics at Mimi's Café, 1450 Fall River Road, Loveland, Colorado.

7. On The Bit

Ginka Kubelka

As every year, we had a holiday party instead of our regular meeting in December. It was well attended by local members of our chapter. Everyone was enjoying delicious food and the gift exchange.

At our January meeting we will discuss moving our monthly meetings from the first Tuesday of the month to Wednesday or Thursday. We will announce any changes on our website (onthebitdressage.com) and Facebook page, so please check for updates if you are interested in getting involved.

Our USEF/USDF and RMDS recognized show this year will be held on July 18th and 19th at Spur Ridge Equestrian Community in Laramie, WY. We will be able to offer stabling this year and are hoping to see lots of happy riders again. If you are interested in our show, please email info@onthebitdressage.com for further information or pictures of the show grounds. We hope to see you there!

8. Pikes Peak

Shannon Lemons

Pikes Peak Dressage would like to congratulate all our members who were recognized at the RMDS Awards banquet! We had a great Christmas gathering at Patricia Weed's house, including a white elephant gift exchange with some hotly contested items making the rounds☺. Our next meeting will be a business and organizing meeting to go over finalizing plans for the coming year.

It's always difficult to find enough horse time during the short cold days of winter, so it's great to get together with your dressage buddies for an education event in a nice warm restaurant☺. One of our anticipated events will be Gwen Ka'awaloa presenting a recap of her talk from the USDF Convention about show attire. Don't miss this great information on how much bling is too much, what is a conservative color, etc. We are also working on scheduling events on how to show your horse in hand, long lining, saddle fit, and rider nutrition.

We are always looking for ideas on educational events as well as suggested locations, so please let us know your ideas! And don't forget to make sure you are on the PPDS list with RMDS so you will get all our emails about upcoming events. Hope to see you soon!

9. Western Colorado

Lesley Hill

Greetings Equestrians!

Best wishes for a wonderful 2020. All is well here on the Western Slope. As winter folds in, those of us that stay here are embracing the opportunity for some quiet time for foundation work, while others are off to warmer climes. Ahh....

As an early Christmas present, we had a wonderful clinic with Kathleen Raine in mid-December (thank you Healthy Horse Boutique) and we'll be having a few more clinics as the winter continues.

We are starting a newsletter for our chapter members, as a way to communicate events and milestones and stay in touch. In that spirit, as our first installment, we are thrilled to report on the successes of our member Anita Williams. Yeah Anita!

Anita Williams and Ducarlos (who was started as a 4-year-old by Anita) finished 8th in USDF National rankings for Intermediate 1 Horse of the Year, National Champion Dutch Warmblood at Intermediate 1, and National Champion Vintage Cup at Intermediate. Marius, trained by Anita since he was a 5-year-old, made his Grand Prix debut and Williamsburg, started by Anita as a 3-year-old, made his debut at Prix St. Georges in 2020.

Next Meeting is March 12th.

9:04 pm Lauren Still made the motion to adjourn. 2nd by Gwen Ka'awaloa. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Heather Petersen